

Agri-Food Statistics Update



Issue No: CR17-1

Collected from a variety of sources, the Statistics and Data Development Section monitors statistical indicators of agri-food activity for Alberta. The Agri-Food Statistics Update is designed to provide users with commentary on current issues, trends and new developments related to agriculture and the food and beverage processing industries. Up-to-date statistics are supplemented with informative charts and diagrams. To gauge Alberta's performance, comparative data and information are often available for Canada and the provinces.

Please visit the following website for a complete listing of Agri-Food Statistics Update releases:

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd5270](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd5270)

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July 2017 Estimate of Production of Principal Field Crops, Alberta

On August 31, 2017, Statistics Canada released their July estimates of crop production for 2017.

Key Messages

- This year's crop season started with a wet spring and unharvested areas from the last season, which resulted in very late seeding. Estimated yields are highly variable across the province, due to non-uniform weather conditions, particularly in the Southern and Northern Regions.
- In 2017, total production of selected principal field crops in Alberta is estimated at 22.6 million tonnes. This is down 9.3 per cent from a year ago, but still 7.7 per cent above the 10-year average.
- Spring wheat production in Alberta is expected to decline by 1.6 percent to 7.9 million tonnes, driven by a lower average yield, despite harvested area increasing.
- Barley production is estimated at 3.7 million tonnes, down 15.4 percent, as yields are expected to decrease by 12.6 percent and harvested area down 3.3 percent.
- Canola production could drop 1.6 percent to 6.1 million tonnes. Even so, it is still 20.0 percent higher than the 10-year average.
- Corn for grain production is expected to jump 90.4 percent to a record 120,900 tonnes, which is 151.1 percent higher than the 10-year average. The marked production is driven by a 94.4 percent increase in harvested area, despite a drop in yields.

Note: This is the first of three production estimates produced by Statistics Canada and therefore subject to change. A second set of estimates which is modelled driven will be released on September 19, 2017, followed by the third and final set to be released on December 6, 2017.

September 6, 2017

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Total Alberta Crop Production Expected to Decrease in 2017

On August 31, 2017, Statistics Canada released the July, 2017 estimates of crop production for Canada and the provinces. The data is preliminary and is the first of three production estimates done for 2017, by Statistics Canada. Based on the Alberta estimates, total production of the reported principal field crops could reach 22.6 million tonnes, down 9.3 percent from 2016, but still 7.7 percent higher than the 10-year average (see Table 1). This year seeding season started with a wet spring and unharvested areas from the last season, which delayed seeding. Estimated yields are highly variable across the province, due to non-uniform weather conditions, particularly in the Southern and Northern Regions (see Table 2). Just to note, the 2017 production estimates reflect yield potentials at the time the survey was conducted (July 19 to August 1, 2017), and therefore could change in subsequent reports. Overall, total seeded and harvested area of principal field crops in Alberta are estimated to be higher than in 2016.

Crops	2012	2013	2014	2015r	2016r	2017p	10-year Average	% change	
								17 vs 16	17 vs Avg
Winter Wheat	206.8	261.3	272.2	225.9	318.4	155.1	263.9	-51.3%	-41.2%
Spring Wheat	7,429.9	10,169.6	8,369.1	7,247.6	7,995.9	7,867.8	7,536.9	-1.6%	4.4%
Durum Wheat	732.1	870.9	707.6	816.5	1,583.9	974.6	849.4	-38.5%	14.7%
All Wheat	8,368.8	11,301.8	9,348.9	8,290.0	9,898.2	8,997.5	8,650.2	-9.1%	4.0%
Oats	518.2	601.5	542.9	393.3	624.6	625.8	554.4	0.2%	12.9%
Barley	4,463.3	5,545.4	4,131.3	4,289.2	4,398.0	3,720.3	4,642.6	-15.4%	-19.9%
Fall Rye	34.3	36.3	30.9	33.0	49.5	25.4	42.1	-48.7%	-39.7%
Flaxseed	41.9	73.7	87.6	83.8	54.6	63.5	50.5	16.3%	25.9%
Canola	5,097.2	6,168.9	5,796.9	5,851.3	6,157.5	6,060.0	5,051.3	-1.6%	20.0%
Corn for Grain	35.6	66.0	91.4	87.6	63.5	120.9	48.1	90.4%	151.1%
Dry Beans	44.7	48.1	66.0	47.9	54.7	63.0	48.1	15.2%	30.9%
Fababeans	-	-	107.5	81.6	54.4	59.0	24.4	8.5%	142.3%
Dry Peas	1,208.4	1,321.3	1,475.1	1,314.5	2,271.2	1,904.7	1,130.4	-16.1%	68.5%
Lentils	68.1	110.3	84.4	176.4	506.2	251.3	113.7	-50.4%	121.1%
Mustard Seed	35.9	37.2	59.4	31.9	73.3	38.7	42.7	-47.2%	-9.3%
Sugar Beets	598.7	598.7	580.6	503.5	725.7	680.4	598.3	-6.2%	13.7%
Total	20,515.1	25,909.2	22,402.9	21,184.0	24,931.4	22,610.5	20,996.7	-9.3%	7.7%

Production by Crop Type, Alberta

In 2017, total production of **spring wheat** is expected to decline 1.6 percent, to 7.9 million tonnes. The lower production stems from a decrease in average yield (down 16.0 percent) despite increasing harvested area (up 16.8 percent). The provincial average yield is estimated at 50.0 bushels per acre, with harvested area at 5.8 million acres. For **durum wheat**, production could fall by 38.5 percent, to 974,600 tonnes, due to the harvested area decreasing 5.7 percent to 1.1 million acres and average yield down 34.8 percent, to 33.0 bushels per acre. Overall, production of **all wheat** is expected to decline by 9.1 per cent to 9.0 million tonnes.

Total **barley** production is expected to decline to 3.7 million tonnes, (down 15.4 percent from last year), due to a 12.6 percent decrease in the average yield to 67.9 bushels per acre and harvested area falling 3.3 percent, to 2.5 million acres.

Total **canola** production could decrease slightly by 1.6 percent from 2016, to 6.1 million tonnes. This is driven by a lower yield of 38.7 bushels per acre (down 16.6 percent), despite harvested area increasing 17.9 percent to 6.9 million acres.

For **lentils**, production is expected to drop 50.4 percent to 251,300 tonnes. The marked decline would be the result of a 13.6 percent decrease in harvested area to 484,000 acres and average yield down 42.5 percent to 19.1 bushels per acre.

The production of **dry peas** could fall by 16.1 percent to 1.9 million tonnes. The decline is attributed to a 15.2 percent drop in expected yields to 39.1 bushels per acre and harvested area down 1.1 percent to 1.8 million acres.

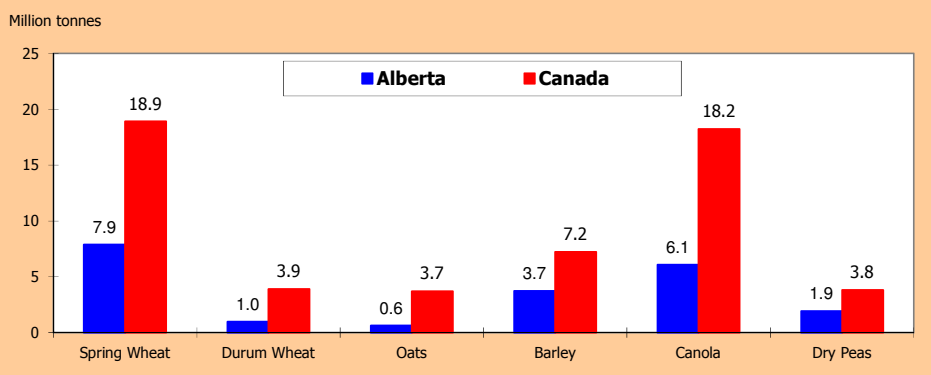
Corn for grain production is expected to increase significantly by 90.4 percent to a record 120,900 tonnes. The record production is due to a higher harvested area, despite lower yields. Harvested area could increase by 94.4 percent to 35,000 acres, while average yield is down 2.1 percent to 136.0 bushels per acre.

2017 Crop Production, Canada

The July estimates suggest that in 2017, production of most principal field crops in Canada could see a decline from last year. Estimates of Canadian production was 18.9 million tonnes for spring wheat, 3.9 million tonnes for durum, 7.2 million tonnes for barley, 3.7 million tonnes for oats, 18.2 million tonnes for canola, and 3.8 million tonnes for dry peas (see Figure 1).

Crops	2016r	2017p	2016r	2017p	2016r	2017p	10-year Avg Yld	Yield % change	
	Seeded	Seeded	Harvested	Harvested	Yield	Yield		17 vs 16	17 vs Avg
	('000 acres)		('000 acres)		(bu/acre)				
Winter Wheat	185.0	105.0	185.0	100.0	63.2	57.0	55.0	-9.8%	3.7%
Spring Wheat	5,335.0	5,860.0	4,955.0	5,787.0	59.5	50.0	49.0	-16.0%	2.1%
Durum Wheat	1,170.0	1,090.0	1,150.0	1,085.0	50.6	33.0	44.0	-34.8%	-24.9%
All Wheat	6,705.0	7,080.0	6,290.0	6,972.0	58.0	47.4	48.5	-18.3%	-2.3%
Oats	720.0	690.0	425.0	435.0	95.3	93.3	78.6	-2.1%	18.6%
Barley	3,200.0	2,850.0	2,600.0	2,515.0	77.7	67.9	66.4	-12.6%	2.3%
Fall Rye	65.0	45.0	42.0	20.0	46.4	50.0	42.9	7.8%	16.7%
Flaxseed	70.0	85.0	64.0	85.0	33.6	29.4	29.9	-12.5%	-1.7%
Canola	5,980.0	6,930.0	5,850.0	6,900.0	46.4	38.7	38.2	-16.6%	1.4%
Corn for Grain	25.0	60.0	18.0	35.0	138.9	136.0	102.6	-2.1%	32.6%
Dry Beans	45.0	50.0	45.0	50.0	44.7	46.3	39.7	3.7%	16.8%
Fababeans	45.0	40.0	41.0	40.0	48.8	54.2	46.8	10.9%	15.7%
Dry Peas	1,845.0	1,800.0	1,810.0	1,790.0	46.1	39.1	39.8	-15.2%	-1.8%
Lentils	575.0	485.0	560.0	484.0	33.2	19.1	24.0	-42.5%	-20.6%
Mustard Seed	135.0	95.0	132.0	95.0	24.5	18.0	18.5	-26.6%	-2.9%
Sugar Beets	25.0	26.0	25.0	26.0	32.0	28.8	27.1	-10.0%	6.3%
Total	19,435.0	20,236.0	17,902.0	19,447.0	---	---	---	---	---

Figure 1: Production of Selected Principal Field Crops, 2017, Alberta and Canada



Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding. 10-year average refers to 2007 to 2016.

Source: Statistics Canada p - Preliminary - Not available --- Not applicable bu - Bushels Avg - Average Yld - Yield

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